2007 - 08, a total of Rs.24193.47 lakhs and Rs.6271.04 lakhs have been released under the National River Conservation Plan and National Lake Conservation Plan respectively.

Wastage of products into coastal areas

666. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that some foreign companies have dumped the wastage of their products into our coastal areas;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government;

(c) whether Government has given any instruction to the State Governments who allowed foreign companies to dump their wastage which will cause severe negative consequences to the land and future generations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) According to the Central Board of Excise and Customs, no case of dumping of waste from the foreign companies has been noticed into our coastal areas.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Damage caused by plastic

667. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the extent of damage caused by plastic in the environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the steps taken/being taken by Government for the protection of environment; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and how far the public shall suffer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Plastics *per se* is not hazardous to environment. Plastics being non-biodegradable can be recycled many times, thereby has certain advantages over other materials like metals. Indiscriminate littering, improper collection and treatment may result in choking of drains, cattle's death on ingestion and making land infertile.

(c) and (d) The Government has notified "Plastics Manufacture, Sale and Usage Rules, 1999 as amended in 2003" to regulate use and manufacturing of Plastics carry bags, containers and recycling of plastics waste. The Ministry of Environment and Forests provides financial assistance for creating environmental awareness for management of plastics.

Development of forest villages of West Bengal

†668.SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new schemes being formulated by Government for the development of forest villages;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the State-wise amount allocated during the years 2000-02 for the implementation of the schemes; and

(c) the number of forest villages of West Bengal included in the scheme for development formulated and the amount allocated during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) A scheme for development of forest villages titled "Development of Forest Villages" was launched during 2005-06 by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs under the Special Central Assistance (SCA) of the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) to provide basic infrastructural facilities like approach roads, drinking water, healthcare, minor irrigation etc. and support to the livelihood of the villagers.

As per the information provided by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, an amount of Rs. 59,856 lakh has so far been released for the implementation of the programme in 2413 forest villages of 12 States. There are 170 forest villages in West Bengal for which an amount of Rs. 4,333 lakh has been released to the State under the scheme during the financial years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2008-09. No state-wise allocation of funds is earmarked and the release of funds is done on the basis of proposals received from the respective State Governments. A statement showing state-wise release of funds under the programme since 2005-06 is attached.

Statement

State-wise funds released under the Scheme of 'Development of Forest Villages'

(As on 30th September, 2008)
(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	State	Fund Released				Total Funds released so far
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	
1	Assam	4059.00	1817.42	0.00	4696.05	10572.47
2	Chhattisgarh	4359.00	4161.37	1034.00	0.00	9554.37
3	Gujarat	1979.00	1434.38	593.62	0.00	4007.00
4	Jharkhand	129.71	173.87	0.00	0.00	303.58
5	Meghalaya	0.00	390.71	0.00	0.00	390.71
6	Madhya Pradesh	6190.65	10472.42	2829.00	6502.50	25994.57
7	Mizoram	202.50	1317.5	190.00	435.00	2145.00
8	Orissa	157.14	133.46	0.00	180.00	470.60
9	Tripura	0.00	930.00	0.00	558.00	1488.00
10	Uttarakhand	0.00	566.96	0.00	0.00	566.96
11	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	30.00	30.00
12	West Bengal	2104.00	699.00	0.00	1530.00	4333.00
	TOTAL	19181.00	22097.09	4646.62	13931.55	59856.26